

## **President's Report**

### **July 2012**

Amazing....one month to go and our full-time faculty return for the ramp up of the first day of fall classes which begin August 20. The summer has flown by.

So, it has been hot and dry for the last few months. That is certainly bad news for our lawns and gardens, but fantastic news for the construction of our new north side entrance ways and parking lots. On July 23, we will open the new Euclid entrance and three of the new and improved parking lots on the north side of campus. Good progress is also being made on the west side and all lots should be back online by August 20. We all share a sigh of relief knowing the end is in sight. Kudos to Tom Crylen and the facilities team, andCarolynn Muci our internal communications manager for keeping everyone informed regarding this project.

We continue to monitor enrollment trends. The final numbers for FY12 have been tallied and our headcount decreased by 0.7% while FTE declined by 4.2%. Enrollment numbers for summer show a larger decrease; both headcount and FTE declined by 10%, and fall is trending the same. We have heard from several Illinois community colleges and others across the Midwest that enrollment declines are prevalent and are ranging between 3% - 33%. These year-to-year decreases are attributable to the unsustainable increases that were realized as the Great Recession unfolded and we are returning to enrollment levels that were common before the economic downturn.

The summer has witnessed a significant enrollment increase for InZone, our summer academy for kids and teens. The program has been managed very well and all has gone well despite the hot weather and congested parking. Mark Mrozinski, Dean of Continuing Education and Business Outreach will brief us on the program during the July Board meeting. A new program added this year titled "Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs" was filled to capacity. This program serves as an introduction to manufacturing. Among other things the kids in this class will take "field trips" to various manufacturers. On July 24, the kids will visit Nation Pizza. There they will observe me working in the plant—I will be actually manufacturing food. This work experience represents the fulfillment of a promise I made to two of our manufacturers who led the charge to secure industry internships for our new advanced manufacturing program. I agreed to work for the manufacturer that brought in the most internships. Since there was a tie, I will also be working for Acme Industries in August.

The manufacturing program certainly has created a "buzz." Thanks to Phil Burdick and Erin Brooks, we have had terrific media coverage with continuing coverage in the local and national

media markets. We have been interviewed by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as well as *Inside Higher Ed*. Last Friday, we had an interview with the *Chicago Tribune*. Next week on July 18, we travel to Washington D.C. to share the program with the Senate Democratic Leadership's Steering Committee at the request of Senator Durbin. All of this coverage has helped promote the program. Thus far, we have received approximately 75 expressions of interest. All good news!

Following are some notable activities, events and accomplishments of our students, staff and faculty.

### **Student Success**

- Students in the Hospitality/Culinary program assisted the Chicago-Northwest Convention and Visitors Bureau with Chefs' Fest at the Schaumburg Convention Center which hosted more than 2,000 visitors. The students assisted 100 exhibitors with food preparation and display.
- Harper Hospitality/Culinary students also created and delivered 500 mini-cupcakes to the Schaumburg Public Library as part of the Library's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- The Graphics Arts Technology Program hosted three events that drew more than 100 people to campus to view Harper student portfolios as well as projects completed by high school students.
- Mark Larsen, a Graphic Arts Technology student, won for the "Best New Ad" at a recent competition.
- Melanie Knippen, a student English tutor in the Writing Center, received the Vivian Steward Award and the Point of View Award for her poetry.
- Chemistry tutor, Amit Patel, was awarded a summer internship with Baxter International.
- Thomas Storey, Math/Physics student tutor, received a scholarship from Harper's Pro Tech unit.
- Astronomy/Math student tutor Misa Fioretto, received the PTK Outstanding Member Award for the Illinois region, Student Activities' Most Outstanding Club Officer award and the David K. Hill Memorial Scholarship.
- Admissions Outreach hosted a Parent Orientation attended by 55-60 high school students and their parents.
- Seventeen Harper faculty, in partnership with 16 area high school and college teachers and counselors in career program areas, participated in a Quincy University graduate course on stackable credentials.

- The Center for New Students has launched its new orientation program which utilizes technology in the Student Portal. As of mid-June, over 500 students have been served and feedback received on the experience has been positive.
- Kevin Long, faculty in the Speech and Theater area, sang with the Elgin Opera for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration at the Sears Center.
- Sam Giordano, faculty and coordinator in Fire Science Technology, was appointed as the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association representative to serve on the Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance through the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Ashley Knight received her doctorate in Community College Leadership from National Louis University on June 23, and was invited to share the results of her research at two conferences that same week. While attending the Illinois Community College Chief Student Services Officers conference, Ashley was selected to serve as president-elect.
- Laura Bennett chaired the inaugural conference for the Association for Title IX Administrators (ATIXA) in Chicago, IL, celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the enactment of Title IX on June 23 – 24. At the conference, she co-presented the following sessions: “Title IX in the Community College Setting,” “Title IX and the Campus Disciplinary Process,” and “Title IX on a Budget”. On June 6, Laura co-presented a national webinar entitled “Removing Suicidal Students from Campus: The Significance of Recent Changes in Federal Policy”.
- Student Activities staff attended the Illinois Community College Student Activities Association annual conference from June 6 – 7. At the conference, Michael Nejman and Ernie Kimlin presented on an article they co-authored entitled *Guiding Principles for Speaker/Performer Selection: How Do You Choose Your Campus Programs and Speakers*, published in the April 2012 Campus Activities Programming Magazine. Additionally, Michael Nejman was honored with the creation of a new award in his name entitled “The Michael Nejman Excellence in Programming Award.”
- Student Activities produced the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner & Jazz event. According to the Box Office Report, there were 406 attendees (134 students, 218 Harper staff and annuitants, and 54 general public). The Ken Spurr Quintet showcased Harper student singers, as well as Patti and Harry Reinhart (American Idol contestant Hailey Reinhart’s parents).
- Author, comic book aficionado, and executive producer of the “Batman” movie series, Michael Uslan gave a very inspirational presentation to the 175 audience members on Thursday, June 28 about following your dream and “taking the road less travelled.”
- Our athletes have received notable recognition
  - 86 N4C Academic All-conference certificates were awarded to student athletes for achieving a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher.
  - 16 NJCAA All-American awards were won by our student-athletes for their performances in their sport.
- Maria Moten, Assistant Provost/Dean of Enrollment Services, presented at the 2012 American Association of Collegiate Registrars (AACRAO) Transfer Conference on Tuesday, July 3, 2012. The session - Creating a Working Partnership: Perspectives on

the Future of Transfers - revealed how DePaul University and Harper College have strengthened their relationship by means of creating baccalaureate degree pathways beginning at Harper with the associate degree program and transferring to DePaul for completion of a bachelor's degree through the new DePaul Admission Partnership Program (DAPP).

- Matthew McLaughlin, Manager of Admissions Processing and Testing, was one of 19 representatives from colleges across the country invited by ACT to participate in an advisory capacity at a two-day meeting that was held in June. This advisory group was formed by ACT to review proposed changes to COMPASS and provide feedback as it relates to current functionality as well as to a new release of the product scheduled for late 2013.

### ***Information Technology***

- The project to shut down Regent, the previous ERP system, has been completed. The project entailed extracting and reformatting data remaining on the system, and loading the information into an Oracle database, as well as developing a reporting system to provide users with access to the information repository.
- This past month there has been a lot of activity with the Harper Mobile Application:
  - Information Technology partnered with Marketing to complete the production of the first Harper College Mobile video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jlu4dDkvtw>
  - Linda Mueller, Manager of Business Systems and Mobile Development, will be a featured presenter at Blackboard World in New Orleans. She will be presenting the story on the Harper College Mobile Application, how it was conceived, developed and the benefits to the students.
  - Patrick Bauer, Chief Information Officer, was published in the June *Educause* online magazine. The article "Mobile: It's Time to Get Serious" is an in-depth look at Mobile applications and how Harper has succeeded in becoming a leader. <http://www.educause.edu/ero/article/mobile-it%E2%80%99s-time-get-serious>
- A significant change occurred during June related to how all staff and faculty computer documents are stored and protected. Over the weekend of June 16 and 17, all staff, administrator and faculty computer files were successfully relocated to new storage systems. While this effort went mostly unnoticed, it was the single largest data migration in Harper College history and in some way impacted every employee and every major system that Harper uses. In addition to providing expanded capacity, this new storage system provides state of the art data replication and multi-site back-up capabilities, protecting our data in the event of a major system failure or natural disaster.
- Finance and Information Technology successfully re-engineered the College's credit card processing systems, providing improved security for credit card sales in the Harper Store, Box Office, food service areas, and tuition and fee processing. This work was completed in response to the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Compliance requirements. This effort included reviewing all credit card processes, improving security for our computing infrastructure, reviewing and updating guidelines and documentation, along with several successful network security scans performed by an authorized PCI scanning organization.

### ***Physical Plant***

- The North Campus Roadway and Parking Lot Improvement Project is a good example of Harper's continuing efforts toward environmental sustainability. In addition to providing an acre of green space without reducing parking and more than doubling our previous tree count, significant amounts of concrete from old sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and light pole bases are being recycled onsite. This material will then be reused as an aggregate base for our new roads and paths to significantly reduce landfill debris and pollution associated with the unnecessary transport of same. As an added benefit, overall project costs are reduced which results in a direct savings to the College.

### ***Human Resources***

- More than 350 Harper employees attended our first annual Spring Fest entitled *Escape to Paradise*, which was chaired by Michelé Robinson. With the sounds of the Harper Steel Drum Band creating the ambiance, faculty and staff were treated to a tropical lunch buffet and were entertained by the Barefoot Hawaiian dancers. While Admissions Processing took home a trophy in the Ultimate Palm Tree contest, employees also competed in limbo and hula hoop contests. A great time was had by all.

Last, let me express my personal appreciation for the Board's support of my attendance at the American Association of Community College's President's Institute last week. This annual event brings community college presidents from all over the country to a four day symposium expressly for presidents. The program was very good. The presentation by Dr. Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, really stood out. There is no question going forward that public higher education must become flexible, timelier, and focused, if it is to withstand challenges and sustain its prominence. The pool of future students will change rapidly; the current minority will become the majority, with respect to race, ethnicity, and age. Competition for students will become more intense with increased demand for student services and credentialing. Programs will need to be compressed (think nine months for a credential) and a series of credentials will need to be bundled into degrees. States will be making strategic investments in higher education and any new money will be linked to student success. We must think of the work implications for our faculty and staff with respect to courses and program design, the academic calendar, and modes of delivery.

These are very challenging times, yet they are also exciting times. The community college in particular is in the midst of dynamic change. District boundaries count less and less in the world of electronic delivery and open source education. We need to be open to the possibilities and strategic in our choices.

This is a fantastic time to be in a leadership role in higher education!

*Ken*